

Claims 1-27 encompass on the elected invention.

The claims encompassing the elected species are claims 1-19 and 21-27.

The Examiner has imposed a restriction requirement between claims 1-27, drawn to an abuse-proofed dosage form (denoted Group I by the Examiner) and claims 28-36, drawn to a process for the production of an abuse-proofed dosage form; (denoted Group II by the Examiner).

The Examiner has also Identified the following species:

Group I

- i. the component (c) listed in claim 19, and
- ii the component (c) listed in claim 20.

Group II

- i the singulation technique of claim 32, or
- ii the singulation technique of claim 32 (33???)

Applicants have elected Group I, claims 1-27 and the component (c) listed in claim 19, with traverse.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

The abuse-proofed dosage form and the process for producing it are so closely related that a search of either one would certainly include a search of both, and the inclusion of one of the indicated species in the search criteria would certainly include a search of all the identified species. Accordingly, no additional burden would be imposed in the Patent Office in searching both groups and all the identified species together.

On the other hand, a very great burden would be imposed on Applicants if the restriction requirement were not withdrawn. Applicants will be subjected to the cost and effort in prosecuting several patent applications for subject matter that could be included in just one, and will also be subjected to the cost of maintaining several patents for subject matter that could have just as easily been included in just one.

The very great burden imposed on Applicants by maintaining the restriction requirement is far greater than the very minor burden imposed on the Patent Office by a withdrawal of the restriction requirement.

It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the restriction requirement.

In the event that the Examiner does not find it possible to withdraw the Restriction Requirement, it is respectfully requested that the non-elected subject matter be rejoined with the elected subject matter upon allowance of elected subject matter.

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If any extension of time for this response is required, applicant requests that this be considered a petition therefor. Please charge the required Petition fee to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess to our Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted

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